

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) No. 4:22-CR-00062 HEA
)
HUSSEIN KADHIM ABOOD)
KHALAF,)
)
Defendant.)

SENTENCING HEARING

BEFORE THE HONORABLE HENRY E. AUTREY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APRIL 25, 2023

APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff: Colleen C. Lang, Esq.
OFFICE OF U.S. ATTORNEY
111 South Tenth Street, 20th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

For Defendant: Mohammed Ghulam Ahmed, Esq.
FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
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REPORTED BY: ANGELA K. DALEY, CSR, RMR, FCRR, CRR
Official Court Reporter
United States District Court
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PRODUCED BY COURT REPORTER COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION

(PROCEEDINGS STARTED AT 1:30 P.M.)

(THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HELD IN OPEN COURT AND WITH
THE DEFENDANT PRESENT.)

THE COURT: Good afternoon, all. This is the matter of United States of America versus Hussein Kadhim Abood Khalaf, case number 4:22-CR-00062 HEA. The matter is now before the Court for purposes of sentencing; the defendant having pleaded guilty in this matter on December 1st of 2022 to one count, Count One, blackmail. Sentencing was deferred pending receipt of a presentence investigation report which the Court has now received and reviewed in its entirety.

Defendant appears with counsel, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed; the Government appears through Ms. Colleen Lang.

Mr. Ahmed, on behalf of the defendant, are you ready to proceed?

MR. AHMED: No, Your Honor. We would like ruling on the actual motion before we proceed to sentencing if we are going to proceed to sentencing.

THE COURT: Well, we are at the very least ready to proceed on the motion?

MR. AHMED: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Are you ready to proceed, Ms. Lang?

MS. LANG: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. That being stated by

1 Mr. Ahmed, the defendant had filed a motion to withdraw his
2 plea of guilty alleging, in essence I believe, ineffective
3 assistance of counsel. Is that correct, Mr. Ahmed?

4 MR. AHMED: Partially, Your Honor. He filed his own
5 pro se motion just a few days after pleading guilty, and we
6 supplemented the motion with actual elaborated legal premises.

7 THE COURT: All right. Well, the defendant's motion,
8 let's proceed with argument in that regard then.

9 MR. AHMED: Well, thank you, Your Honor. I think the
10 standard is pretty simple. It's a fair and just reason to
11 withdraw a plea. In his own pro se motion, he alleges that he
12 didn't really understand why he was coming to court that day
13 and that from his understanding he was only proceeding because
14 he thought the case would be dropped. That was in his pro se
15 motion.

16 Afterwards, my office got the case, we have looked at
17 it, and we think there is some substantial legal bases for him
18 not entering a plea. First, we believe that his counsel at
19 the time made certain representations to him that were flatly
20 incorrect and that had the effect of being affirmative
21 statements of the law that just weren't true regarding
22 basically his deportability. I think in normal situations
23 where you just leave a defendant with the understanding that
24 there may be consequences, that may be enough, but
25 unfortunately, Mr. Lozano took an extra step and literally

1 said due to my research, I see nothing here that would be
2 deportable, and that was a step too far because it was just
3 bad information.

4 Secondly, we have come to find out that the
5 underlying forensic evidence, the cell phone dump, things of
6 that nature, that was relied upon in reports that we did
7 receive, so I will admit that we did receive reports from the
8 FBI concerning things, but the underlying data was never
9 shared, and without assessing the actual data, we have no
10 basis to assess the credibility of the reports.

11 THE COURT: When you say underlying data, what are
12 you talking about?

13 MR. AHMED: I am talking about the phone dump to see
14 if the phone that was taken from Mr. Khalaf is actually the
15 source of the messages that allegedly are attributed to him.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. AHMED: I think those are substantial reasons for
18 Mr. Khalaf to withdraw his plea even though he would be
19 subjecting himself to much more penalties. And I have made
20 that clear to him several times, but he feels strongly in that
21 he didn't because of these errors make an actual, knowing, and
22 intelligent plea.

23 For those reasons, Your Honor, we would ask that you
24 grant the motion. Thank you.

25 THE COURT: Thank you. Ms. Lang.

1 MS. LANG: Thank you, Your Honor. I will rely on the
2 case law that I have in my written response that was filed
3 yesterday, but I do want to point out that the defendant came
4 into open court, you know, pled guilty freely, voluntarily.
5 We had a lengthy conversation with him. You asked him
6 numerous questions that this was his right to plead guilty, he
7 did not want a trial. We went through all of that with him
8 under oath and he agreed that he was satisfied with
9 Mr. Lozano's work on the case and that he did, in fact, want
10 to plead guilty.

11 And then the part about the deportation, that was on
12 the record at an earlier hearing, and Mr. Lozano informed him
13 that he needed to seek an immigration attorney to get that
14 clarified, that there was a chance of deportation, but there
15 was a chance maybe he wouldn't be deported.

16 Again, I don't think that the defendant has met his
17 burden in this case to prove that he was prejudiced by the two
18 issues that he brought forward in his motion to withdraw his
19 guilty plea, and I believe that it should not be withdrawn.

20 Thank you, Your Honor.

21 MR. AHMED: Your Honor, I don't have much to add
22 other than I think the simple burden of a fair and just reason
23 has been established.

24 THE COURT: And that fair and just reason is what
25 again?

1 MR. AHMED: That he was improperly informed of the
2 deportability of his offense, number one, that occurred on the
3 record; and second, that he wasn't able to view the actual
4 underlying evidence to assess whether or not the reports in
5 this case were, in fact, of the device that was attributable
6 to him.

7 THE COURT: Well, let me ask you this, Counselor.
8 The record of the defendant's entry of his plea of guilty on
9 that December the 1st day seems to me, having reviewed the
10 record and made the record at the time, belie everything that
11 the defendant alleges as a basis for being able to withdraw
12 the plea of guilty. Even those matters that might relate to
13 deportation as Ms. Lang indicated, there was discussion at a
14 prior hearing which has to be taken as part of this, too,
15 because it is the consistent record in the case on the issue
16 of deportation and the need for the defendant to consult with
17 an immigration attorney to resolve those issues.

18 You know, at the time of the entry of the plea of
19 guilty and at times of other matters appearing before me in
20 this case, the defendant clearly understood what was being --
21 what was transpiring at the time that he entered his plea of
22 guilty. He took an oath, and under the circumstances, I took
23 some additional time to ensure that he understood what was
24 going on in relation to the plea of guilty and that he was
25 pleading guilty to a misdemeanor with a recommendation I

1 believe of time served. Right, Ms. Lang?

2 MS. LANG: That is correct, Your Honor, yes.

3 THE COURT: Right, Mr. Ahmed?

4 MR. AHMED: Yes, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: As opposed to the felony charges that
6 were on the table previously. It's clear from the record that
7 the defendant while under oath indicated that he understood
8 those things, that it was his desire to enter a plea of
9 guilty, no one was forcing him to enter a plea of guilty, that
10 he fully understood the consequences of the plea of guilty on
11 that December the 1st day, that he understood those issues
12 relating to immigration or lack thereof, the possibility of or
13 not the possibility of, that he was doing this freely,
14 voluntarily. He indicated that he had no complaints with his
15 attorney, that his attorney had appropriately advised him in
16 all matters relating to the entry of the plea of guilty, fully
17 answered all of his questions that he had of his attorney
18 relating to those matters that relate to the entry of the plea
19 of guilty versus a trial and the charge, the misdemeanor
20 charge. The record is replete with instances and matters
21 under oath that entirely are contrary to the defendant's
22 statement and assertion not under oath in his motion, pro se
23 motion, now supplemented by a motion by your office as his
24 counsel.

25 Ordinarily, the statement would be made that clearly

1 this is just an example of buyer's remorse, but it's not --
2 you can't really say that's an example or experience of
3 buyer's remorse because going from a felony, if you just look
4 at that, going from a felony to a misdemeanor with time served
5 with some uncertainty as to deportation, how remorseful can
6 one be, and especially considering that he was advised by his
7 attorney and indicated that he was satisfied with that advice
8 when inquired as to whether he was satisfied with all of the
9 advice that his attorney had provided to him that he should
10 consult with an immigration attorney on the issue of
11 deportation. Whether he did that or not, I don't know. There
12 is nothing in his statement or his motion or in the supplement
13 that he did, but he was advised to do that, which is
14 appropriate advice under these types of circumstances where
15 there might be an issue of deportation.

16 So that being said, unless there is any further
17 argument, I am ready to rule on the motion.

18 MR. AHMED: I would just like the Court to know
19 that -- thank you, Your Honor. But I would like the Court to
20 understand that when Mr. Khalaf first came before the Court,
21 he was in an indigent state. He was able to scrounge some
22 money together from his family. They hired a private lawyer.
23 They didn't even fulfill their monetary obligations to that
24 private lawyer, the money ran out, and he is just not in a
25 position to pay an immigration lawyer for more advice. With

1 that, Your Honor, I will conclude.

2 THE COURT: All right. Defendant's motion to
3 withdraw his plea of guilty in light of the arguments
4 presented by counsel here in open court and the briefs and
5 memoranda previously filed is overruled.

6 Having overruled the motion to withdraw the plea of
7 guilty, are we now ready to go forward with sentencing,
8 Mr. Ahmed?

9 MR. AHMED: Yes, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Have you had the opportunity to review
11 the presentence investigation report in this matter with your
12 client?

13 MR. AHMED: Yes, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: And on that review, are there any
15 objections currently pending with respect to the report?

16 MR. AHMED: No formal objections to the calculations
17 of the facts stated in the PSR, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 MR. AHMED: Not on behalf of the defendant.

20 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Lang, on behalf of the
21 United States, have you had the opportunity to review the
22 presentence investigation report in this matter?

23 MS. LANG: Yes, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Are there any objections on behalf of the
25 United States?

1 MS. LANG: No, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: There being no objections to the
3 presentence investigation report, the Court will accept same
4 in its entirety and will now proceed with a review of those
5 matters relating to Local Rule 13.05(b)(ii) as it relates to
6 all pleas of guilty and sentencings in this district.

7 **(Pursuant to Local Rule 13.05, a bench conference was held on**
8 **the record and placed under seal; after which, the following**
9 **proceedings continued in open court:)**

10 THE COURT: Having done so, the Court now concludes
11 that the total offense level applicable to the defendant is
12 18, the appropriate criminal history category is one, which
13 establishes a guideline provision range of 12 months. There
14 is a period of supervised release available of one year as
15 well as a special assessment in favor of the United States in
16 the amount of \$25.

17 Having so concluded, is there anything you would like
18 to say on behalf of your client at this time, Mr. Ahmed,
19 before the Court imposes sentence in this matter?

20 MR. AHMED: Yes, Your Honor, very briefly. We would
21 ask that you follow the joint recommendation of the parties
22 for a sentence of time served. Mr. Khalaf regrets his
23 actions. He regrets any harm that he has caused to the victim
24 in this case and to any other people unduly affected. He
25 would like the Court to understand that he is sorry for his

1 conduct. He made a terrible series of decisions, but he is
2 paying for them. Not only has he sat in jail for almost a
3 year already, but he basically ruined his life. He lost his
4 ability to pursue his Ph.D. His academic and his criminal
5 record are forever scarred, forever marked with his behavior.
6 He has to go home to the scorn and the anger of his family who
7 he has let down financially and emotionally. He has rendered
8 himself deportable in my understanding, so he has really,
9 really caused his own tragic fall. And I would like the Court
10 to understand that, you know, from our perspective, the year
11 he has spent in prison is more than sufficient to impress upon
12 him never to engage in this type of behavior again. Thank
13 you.

14 THE COURT: Thank you. Anything on behalf of the
15 United States, Ms. Lang?

16 MS. LANG: Yes, Your Honor. The victim is present
17 and she would like to make a statement.

18 THE COURT: All right. Step up, ma'am. Would you
19 state your name for the record please?

20 MS. MAXWELL: Yeah, my name is Emily Maxwell.

21 THE COURT: Go right ahead.

22 MS. MAXWELL: Thank you. I apologize, I am going to
23 be reading a lot, so I won't be able to look at you as much.
24 To begin, I would like to thank the Court for giving me the
25 opportunity to share my side of this story. At this point, we

1 are all fully aware of all the facts that have been presented,
2 so there is really no need for me to go over anything that has
3 already been documented. What is missing from court
4 documents, however, is the overall effect that this entire
5 experience has had on me for over two years. Fortunately,
6 despite the trauma Hussein has caused me, I graduated and have
7 started a new position in a career that fulfills me. However,
8 I am losing yet another day of my life because of Hussein and
9 his behavior for the past few years just so I can share the
10 impact of this case that it has had on me. At this very
11 moment, he still continues to steal pieces of joy from me.
12 I'm still living through the embarrassment of telling my story
13 over and over, and I really hope that this will be the last
14 time.

15 Hussein, despite his many accomplishments, is for
16 lack of a better word a monster. He destroyed me in ways that
17 others often cannot comprehend. I no longer feel as though I
18 am a whole person, and I don't know who I am anymore. I lack
19 the ability to eat, sleep, or think properly because of the
20 turmoil I've been subjected to since the beginning of this
21 case. I am now clinically diagnosed with PTSD and have been
22 prescribed medication to help me deal with the constant
23 onslaught of nightmares and the terror of coping with
24 day-to-day tasks. I have lost friends, relationships, and the
25 ability to feel contentment, happiness, or even peace because

1 of the paranoia and trust issues as a result of his actions.

2 Each day is a waking nightmare.

3 The effects of hearing how he wished he could rape
4 and abuse me with pictures included haunt me to this day.

5 While it's painful to talk about, the discomfort you might
6 feel by hearing this is nothing compared to what I picture
7 every night as I fall asleep and every thought that crosses my
8 mind when I leave my house. I fear for my family, I fear for
9 my youngest sibling, I fear for my future, and I fear for my
10 life.

11 Hussein has mentioned many times that he doesn't feel
12 it's right for him to lose the opportunity given to him by
13 coming to the United States. He has spoken of his fear of
14 being in Iraq and the threat to his own life and safety. What
15 a deep ocean of irony in which he swims.

16 Before I started at St. Louis University, I was
17 homeless. I had nothing. I dreamed of what could have been,
18 and since I was a little girl, I hoped that I could live up to
19 the expectations of the family I was raised by. I did that,
20 but I struggled and suffered more than I needed to and did not
21 get to achieve the dream that I wanted in the way that I
22 wanted. I was told I needed to relocate to housing elsewhere
23 besides my own per credible threats made to my own life early
24 in the spring semester of 2022. I relocated often even before
25 then and spent more time away from my own home since the

1 beginning of the case than I did in it.

2 I suffered in silence as I took courses and struggled
3 to succeed as I always imagined I would. It was very
4 difficult to focus on my work knowing that the number of peers
5 he sent sensitive images of me to was so large. It was hard
6 to even look these people in the face on campus knowing that
7 they had seen what they had seen and had been harassed by
8 Hussein himself because of me. What was I supposed to say to
9 them when they asked me why an account with my name was
10 sending them graphic texts and sexually explicit images. How
11 was I supposed to explain to my advisor why he shouldn't open
12 any messages from an account with my name on social media.
13 How do you, Your Honor, think I felt when I had to explain to
14 everyone I was close to that they needed to know where every
15 door and exit was when they entered a new place, to always
16 have their back to a wall, to check under their car every time
17 they go outside, and make sure they carry their keys between
18 their fingers, to always let someone know where they are
19 going, to trust no one.

20 As a result of the thousands of horrific texts and
21 phone calls at all hours of the day including during classes
22 combined with the humiliation, sleep deprivation, and
23 isolation, I was forced to take incomplete grades. Though
24 many were understanding and helpful at the university, I
25 didn't officially graduate until October 15, 2022 even though

1 I was allowed to walk across the stage at commencement with my
2 peers. The day I walked that stage last spring should have
3 been the happiest day of my life. I sacrificed everything to
4 be there. He took that away from me. The audacity he has to
5 hope to inspire pity and sympathy about his own dream being
6 taken away from him was a constant thought as I reluctantly
7 took the diploma I hadn't even fully earned yet because of
8 him. I have had no financial support from family or friends.
9 I am one hundred percent self-made, and if there is an
10 American dream, that's what I have tried to attain and I am on
11 my way to doing so. Hussein has done everything in his power
12 to rob me of this dream.

13 In short, Hussein is the worst type of human being
14 imaginable. The effects of his torment on me for these past
15 years will ripple throughout the rest of my life, even in ways
16 I cannot perceive at present. I fear the idea of even having
17 children because of the damage he has done to me. They don't
18 deserve to suffer because of him. I am no longer sure I know
19 what happiness is. I take my happiness in small doses and
20 hold on to small joyful moments whenever I can because I know
21 that it's essentially impossible to ever fully recover from
22 what he has done no matters how many doctors or therapists I
23 see. I will never feel safe as long as he's allowed to walk
24 free anywhere near me. I greatly look forward to the day
25 where Hussein is no longer in the United States and I can

1 thrive in my home country as I always hoped to.

2 Your Honor, if you can take anything from what I have
3 said, know that Hussein Khalaf has changed my life for the
4 worse, and I hope and pray that he doesn't have the chance to
5 do what he did to me to any other person. I am not stronger
6 because of Hussein; I am stronger in spite of him. Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Thank you so very much. Anything else on
8 behalf of the United States?

9 MS. LANG: No, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Anything else on behalf of the defendant,
11 Mr. Ahmed?

12 MR. AHMED: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Is there anything you want to say in your
14 own behalf, Mr. Khalaf?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Go right ahead.

17 THE DEFENDANT: So, Your Honor, I was listening to
18 Emily and probably if anything probably what happened through
19 this case that caused damage or something to her, I did not do
20 any of that damage, and I explained myself many times, and the
21 person who was sending those messages, she knows him.

22 MR. AHMED: Your Honor, may I have a moment?

23 THE COURT: Sure.

24 **(Attorney consults with Defendant)**

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. So again, I did not cause any

1 of those damages, and I am not that monster person or like the
2 worst human being that was mentioned in the letter. And to
3 say the thing what she said like she is self-made American
4 dream, I don't want to mention what kind of job she works.
5 She knows that. We dated and she knows that I know and --
6 please let me just finish this. She started this job in Japan
7 in 2015 and continued through the year. I am not saying it's
8 bad. I mean, it's a free country and you can probably work
9 whatever. She did that also even with her advisers from
10 school from SLU, from Truman University. I am not judging any
11 person, but also that's not a clear example of American dream,
12 that you can sell your body for --

13 MR. AHMED: All right. Your Honor, may I have a
14 minute?

15 THE COURT: Yes.

16 **(Attorney consults with Defendant)**

17 MR. AHMED: Thank you.

18 THE DEFENDANT: So yeah, probably my attorney thinks
19 this is not in my best interest. But, I mean, I don't want
20 just to keep repeating myself. If anything happened to any
21 person, probably I hurt in direct or indirect way I apologize
22 for that. But me personally, God knows. That's the comfort
23 that I have, God knows. Probably here we deal with evidence
24 with people talking and that's a human thing, but God knows
25 who is Hussein. And again, if I hurt anyone in an indirect

1 way, I apologize for that. But I am not that monster person,
2 and I learned a lot from this experience. It's a very bad
3 experience to me as my attorney said and it just damaged
4 everything, but this is life and I have to deal with it. And
5 again, thank you, Your Honor, for letting me just say those
6 few words, and again, if I hurt anyone in an indirect way, I
7 apologize. Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Thank you. Any legal cause why sentence
9 should not now be imposed, Mr. Ahmed?

10 MR. AHMED: No, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Ms. Lang?

12 MS. LANG: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: No legal cause having been shown as to
14 why sentence should not now be imposed, allocution having been
15 granted, it is now the order and judgment of the Court
16 pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 as well as the
17 provisions of 18 USC Section 3553(a) that the defendant be
18 committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for a term
19 of time served.

20 Upon release from imprisonment, defendant will be
21 placed on supervised release for a term of one year. The
22 mandatory conditions of supervision will attach as well as
23 this Court's standard conditions of supervision. Certain
24 special conditions will also be applicable, and if it is
25 determined that there are costs associated with any services

1 provided, the defendant will pay those costs based on a
2 co-payment fee established by the Probation Office.

3 The defendant must not communicate or otherwise
4 interact with the victim, either directly or through someone
5 else, without first obtaining the permission of the probation
6 officer. Defendant must pay the costs of any future
7 counseling for the victim of this offense should counseling be
8 pursued.

9 Defendant must immediately report, continue to
10 report, or surrender to the U.S. Immigration and Customs
11 Enforcement and follow all of their instructions and reporting
12 requirements until any deportation proceedings are completed.
13 If the defendant is ordered deported from the United States,
14 the defendant must remain outside the United States unless
15 legally authorized to reenter. If the defendant reenters the
16 United States, then the defendant must report to the nearest
17 Probation Office within 72 hours after his return.

18 Defendant must participate in a mental health
19 treatment program and follow the rules and regulations of that
20 program. The probation officer in consultation with the
21 treatment provider will supervise defendant's participation in
22 the program.

23 Defendant must submit his person, property, house,
24 residence, vehicle, papers, computers, other electronic
25 communications or data storage devices or media or office to a

1 search conducted by a United States probation officer.

2 Defendant must warn any other occupants that the premises may
3 be subject to searches pursuant to this condition. The
4 probation officer may conduct a search under this condition
5 only when reasonable suspicion exists that the defendant has
6 violated a condition of supervision and that the areas to be
7 searched contain evidence of the violation.

8 No fine will be imposed, and lastly it is ordered
9 that the defendant pay to the United States a special
10 assessment of \$25 which will be due immediately.

11 Anything further on behalf of the defendant at this
12 time, Mr. Ahmed?

13 MR. AHMED: Your Honor, I never had this situation
14 before, so I don't know if I need a formal order from you to
15 have his location monitoring bracelet taken off.

16 MS. LANG: The Government would object to that, and
17 the victim actually asked me to advocate that he keep the
18 monitor on, location monitoring on, while he is under the
19 supervision of probation and parole.

20 THE COURT: Yeah, I think that that's something that
21 we can address later on after he reports to his probation and
22 parole officer relative his period of supervised release. We
23 can revisit it at some point after that, okay?

24 MR. AHMED: Okay. Thank you.

25 THE COURT: Anything else?

1 MR. AHMED: No, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Anything further on behalf of the United
3 States?

4 MS. LANG: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

5 THE COURT: All right. Appeal. Well, it is a
6 misdemeanor, but I am going to talk about it anyway just to
7 cover the record. Well, maybe not. Well, I'm going to do it
8 anyway just to be on the safe side. Mr. Khalaf, you could
9 have appealed the sentence and judgment in this case, but you
10 would have to do it within 14 days of the date of the sentence
11 and judgment, so that would be 14 days from today's date. If
12 you do not file the notice of appeal before the 14 days
13 expired, then you would have given up your right to appeal the
14 sentence and judgment in this case. If you could not afford
15 to pay the costs of filing the notice of appeal, you could
16 request that the costs be waived, and if the costs were
17 waived, then the Clerk of the Court would file the notice of
18 appeal free of charge in your behalf.

19 You could have appealed it where you felt or believed
20 that it violated the law in some fashion or was otherwise
21 contrary to the law or if it was void or voidable on its face.
22 Maybe you have the right to file a petition for a writ of
23 habeas corpus, although you are not confined at this time
24 since your sentence has been time served, and if you had the
25 right to file a petition for writ of habeas corpus, it would

1 be limited to two things, ineffective assistance of counsel
2 and prosecutorial misconduct, although I do not believe you
3 have that ability.

4 Madam probation officer, did you want to speak with
5 me?

6 PROBATION OFFICER: Yes.

7 **(A Bench Conference Was Held Off the Record)**

8 THE COURT: Subject to reporting to Pretrial
9 Services, that will conclude this proceeding. You might want
10 to go down there on the way out.

11 MR. AHMED: I'm sorry, Your Honor, stop in on
12 Pretrial is what you are telling me?

13 THE COURT: Yeah.

14 MR. AHMED: Thank you.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else, Ms. Lang?

16 MS. LANG: No, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, all. That will
18 conclude this proceeding.

19 MR. AHMED: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 **(PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 2:05 P.M.)**

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CERTIFICATE

I, Angela K. Daley, Registered Merit Reporter and
Certified Realtime Reporter, hereby certify that I am a duly
appointed Official Court Reporter of the United States
District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

I further certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of the proceedings held in the
above-entitled case and that said transcript is a true and
correct transcription of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that this transcript contains
pages 1 through 22 inclusive and that this reporter takes no
responsibility for missing or damaged pages of this transcript
when same transcript is copied by any party other than this
reporter.

Dated at St. Louis, Missouri, this 30th day of May, 2023.

/S/Angela K. Daley
Angela K. Daley, CSR, RMR, FCRR, CRR
Official Court Reporter